CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (previously presented) A process for sterilizing a contaminatable slurry to preclude aerobic and anaerobic bacteria from the slurry, comprising the steps of

a. providing a sanitized oxygen-free fluid handling system,

b. pumping the slurry through the system at a predetermined pressure,

c. heating the slurry to a sterilizing temperature of about 210°F - 290° for a predetermined time to sterilize the slurry,

d. cooling the sterilized slurry by transferring heat to the unsterilized slurry entering the process, and

e. transferring the sterilized slurry to a sanitized fluid collection device. ~~2. (original) The process of claim 1, including the step of flushing the fluid handling system with a mist of nitrogen and a sanitizing chemical to sanitize the system.~~

LM 11/17/04

2. (original) The process of claim 1, including the step of flushing the fluid handling system with a mist of nitrogen and a sanitizing chemical to sanitize the system.

3. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the sterilizing temperature is about 230°F - 270° F, the predetermined time is greater than 5 seconds, and the cooling temperature is below 100° F.

4. (original) The process of claim 3, wherein the sterilizing temperature is about 250°F and the predetermined time is about 2 minutes.

5. (original) The process of claim 1, wherein the sanitized fluid collection device is a storage tank, and including the steps of

f. flushing the fluid handling system with a mist of nitrogen and a sanitizing chemical to sanitize the system, and

g. excluding oxygen from the storage tank, and

h. transporting the storage tank to a terminus for offloading of the slurry.